

FIRST THINGS FIRST

White Mountain Apache Tribe Region



2015 IMPACT REPORT

SCHOOL SUCCESS BEGINS AT BIRTH



90% OF A CHILD'S CRITICAL BRAIN DEVELOPMENT HAPPENS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN,

so early experiences lay the foundation for success in school and in life. Arizonans created First Things First (FTF) to give more children the tools they need to arrive at school prepared to meet our state's high expectations. FTF provides resources and professional expertise then combines it with local decision-making to build on the work of community organizations impacting children and families. Local volunteers – parents, educators, business professionals, philanthropists, faith leaders and tribal representatives – decide how the funds will be used to best improve school readiness for children in their area.

EARLY CHILDHOOD IS ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS A STATE CAN MAKE

Research by Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman showed that every \$1 invested in early childhood can yield returns between \$4 and \$16. Early literacy and its impact on school success is one of the best examples of the return on investment in early childhood. High quality early learning experiences, rich in language and literacy, reduce early learning gaps and ensure that children are ready to start reading when they enter kindergarten.



Gaps in children's vocabulary start to appear as early as
18 MONTHS.



By the time children are
3 & 4 YEARS OLD,
their vocabulary, attention and
general knowledge are predictors of
THIRD & FOURTH GRADE
reading comprehension.



THIRD GRADE
reading ability is one of the
best predictors of
HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION.



As an early childhood system partner, First Things First invests in proven programs and innovative strategies that: strengthen families in their role as their child's first teacher; improve the quality of early learning environments like preschool and child care, and expand access to those programs; and, promote prevention and early identification of health problems that could impact learning later on. By getting more Arizona kids ready for school, FTF helps put children on a path to academic success that benefits them, our communities and our state.

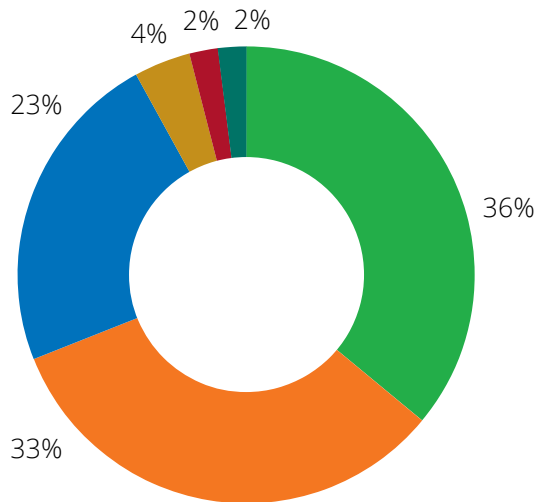
\$1



INVESTED IN EARLY
CHILDHOOD YIELDS UP TO A
\$16 RETURN

FISCAL YEAR 2015 IMPACT

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE FY2015 PROGRAM EXPENDITURES



- Quality Preschool and Child Care \$309,433.29**
 Children exposed to high quality early learning do better in school and are more likely to graduate.
- Preventive Health \$289,294.77**
 Undetected or untreated health issues can impact learning later on.
- Strengthening Families and Early Literacy \$200,331.16**
 Families are a child's first and best teachers.
- Workforce Development and Training \$38,231.79**
 A child's relationships with early caregivers impact whether her brain will develop in ways that promote learning.
- Parent and Community Awareness \$17,449.23**
 We all have a shared responsibility to help children arrive at school prepared to succeed.
- Research and Accountability \$13,572.92**
 Measuring effectiveness and promoting continuous quality improvement rely on robust, accurate data.

Total = \$868,313.16



352 Children had access to a higher standard of early learning through preschool and child care programs participating in Quality First.



73 Infants, toddlers and preschoolers received scholarships to access high quality early learning through preschool or child care.



70 Families of newborns left the hospital with tools to help them support their child's health and learning.



1,005 Fluoride varnishes applied to protect against dental decay.



75 Screenings completed to detect vision, hearing and developmental issues in young kids and prevent learning challenges later on.

INVESTING IN SCHOOL READINESS



CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP ALLOWS WHITERIVER BOY TO PREPARE FOR KINDERGARTEN

Brianne Endfield was determined to raise her son, Denahii, on her own and the right way.

The 18-year-old, first-time mom was taking online classes for her bachelor's degree and working full time to make ends meet, but it wasn't enough.

Soon after the baby was born, Denahii was hospitalized for severe jaundice. The baby's health problems increased as he got older. Denahii, who the family calls Pockets, was frequently in and out of the hospital with a low oxygen count. Chronic ear infections had caused significant hearing loss. At one of his doctor's visits, the doctor told Endfield that her son had a submucous cleft palate. Surgeries followed to help correct his hearing and his cleft palate. The costs of Pockets' medical care quickly began to drain Endfield's bank account.

As Pockets grew older, Endfield knew she needed to find a quality child care center for him to attend, but she didn't think she couldn't afford it on top of his medical costs. Still, she visited at Alchesay Beginnings Child Development Center in Whiteriver, which participates in First Things First's signature program, Quality First. The FTF program partners with child care and preschool providers to improve the quality of early learning across Arizona. Quality First funds quality improvements that research proves help children thrive, such as training for teachers to expand their skills and to help create learning environments that nurture the emotional, social and academic development of every child.

The center's director told Endfield to apply for a Quality First Scholarship, which helps eligible families afford quality early care and education for their young children.

"Pockets is such a social child," Endfield said. "His time at ABC gave him the opportunity to learn so much and interact with other kids."

Now in kindergarten at Cradleboard Elementary School, Endfield said her son is thriving.

"The quality care Pockets received at ABC helped him develop the motivation, self-esteem, focus and self-discipline he needed," she said.

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

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FUNDED PARTNERS - FY2015

American Academy of Pediatrics - AZ Chapter
Association for Supportive Child Care
Central Arizona College
Maricopa County Department of Public Health
Navajo County Public Health Services District
Pima County Health Department
Southwest Human Development

Summit Healthcare Association
U.S. Department of Health and Human Service, Indian Health Services, Whiteriver Service Unit
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
Valley of the Sun United Way
Whiteriver Unified School District

